

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A contents distribution method for distributing digitized contents to plural users, comprising the steps of:

encrypting and distributing contents along with summary information showing a summary of the contents to the plural users;

providing decoding information accompanying encrypted contents, each decoding information specific to a user in the plural users;

displaying summary information only if decoding information ~~accompanying~~ accompanies encrypted contents ~~can be utilized by the user~~ wherein the decoding information determines which encrypted contents among the distributed contents can be utilized by the user;

selecting by the user at least one of the encrypted content from the distributed contents that can be utilized by the user;

decoding the encrypted content using decoding information accompanying the encrypted content and utilizing thereof by the user; and

executing accounting to the user according to said utilized content.

[2-3. (Canceled).]

4. (Original) The contents distribution method according to Claim 1, wherein: said decoding is executed by a decoding key generated based upon first decoding information attached to said encrypted contents and second decoding information which is provided to said user.

5. (Currently Amended) The contents distribution method according to Claim 1, wherein:

said content ~~mean~~ includes a document displayed or printed in a page unit; and
said accounting is executed for said page unit.

6. (Original) The contents distribution method according to Claim 1, wherein:

said distribution is executed by a broadcast.

7. (Currently Amended) A contents distribution system that distributes digitized contents to plural users, comprising:

a distribution device that distributes encrypted contents along with summary information showing a summary of the contents, the distribution device further provides decoding information accompanying encrypted contents, each decoding information specific to a user in the plural users;

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a user terminal that receives encrypted contents distributed by said distribution device, displays summary information only if decoding information ~~accompanying~~ accompanies encrypted contents ~~can be utilized by the user wherein the decoding information determines which encrypted contents among the distributed contents can be utilized by the user,~~ the user selects at least one encrypted content from the distributed encrypted contents that can be utilized by the user, decodes the encrypted content using decoding information accompanying the encrypted content, and generates accounting information according to the utilization of said selected encrypted content; and

a central station that collects and totalizes accounting information generated by said user ~~terminal-terminal~~;

said distribution device encrypts contents provided by a contents provider and generates encrypted contents;

said distribution device attaches list information showing the contents of said encrypted contents and summary information showing the summary to said encrypted contents and distributes said encrypted contents; and

wherein the list of information is displayed upon decoding of the encrypted information by a user.

8-10. (Canceled).

11. (Original) The contents distribution system according to Claim 7, wherein:
said distribution device distributes said encrypted contents by a broadcast.

12. (Original) The contents distribution system according to Claim 7, wherein:
said user terminal comprises:
a data sink that receives encrypted contents distributed from said distribution device;
a data output part that stores encrypted contents received by said data sink, decodes said stored encrypted contents and generates accounting information according to the quantity of utilized said decoded contents; and
a printer that prints contents decoded by said data output part.

13. (Currently Amended) The contents distribution system according to Claim 12, wherein:
said quantity of utilized contents ~~means~~ includes the number of pages included in contents printed by said printer.

14. (Original) The contents distribution system according to Claim 7, wherein:
said user terminal comprises:
a data sink that receives encrypted contents distributed from said distribution device; and
a display that stores encrypted contents received by said data sink, decodes and displays said encrypted contents stored and generates accounting information according to the number of pages included in said displayed contents.

15. (Original) The contents distribution system according to Claim 7, wherein:

said distribution device attaches first decoding information required for
decoding said encrypted contents to said encrypted contents and distributes the; and
said user terminal is provided with second decoding information proper to a
user who uses said user terminal and decodes said encrypted contents based upon said first
decoding information and said second decoding information.

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